

## SMALLPOX AND TYPHUS RAGING IN MEXICO CITY; U. S. SENDS AID

American Government Co-operates With Carranza in Fight on Epidemic, Dispatching Medical Supplies.

Work Hampered Because of Interruption of Rail Traffic Between Capital and Vera Cruz, Officials Hear.

Smallpox and typhus are adding their death toll to that caused by the revolution in Mexico City, according to advices reaching Washington today. General Carranza wired his representative here that he is providing a special train for John Belt, secretary to Consul John R. Silliman, to take vaccine and other medical supplies from Vera Cruz to Mexico City.

This action was taken at the instance of the State Department. The American Red Cross may be asked to join in the fight against the epidemic in the Mexican capital.

That typhus, which has caused a deadlier toll in Serbia than war, is prevalent in Mexico City, has just become known in Washington. How strong a hold the disease has obtained, has not been learned.

### PERIODICAL EPIDEMIC.

There has been periodical epidemics of smallpox during the entire revolutionary period. The situation was aggravated during the period when Oregon held the capital and Zapata cut the water main which supplied a large part of the population.

Famine and filth has played a part in causing spread of disease in Mexico City.

Telegrams to the Carranza agency said that the relief train to Mexico City will meet Duval at Vera Cruz. President Wilson's representative at Pachuca, and bring him back to Vera Cruz. Other Americans will be brought out of Mexico City on the relief train.

The Carranza agency today received the following telegram from Vera Cruz:

### Carranza Statement.

"General Oregon marched through El Paso today, advancing on Aguas Calientes. General Cigales, after taking Guadalupe, joined him. The States of Michoacan, Guanajuato, and Jalisco are in direct telegraphic and railroad communication with Vera Cruz."

While Oregon is marching his forces north to Aguas Calientes, General Carranza is massing a force of 30,000 men for a (Continued on Page Sixteen.)

## WIFE DENIES CHARGE SHE SHOT PREACHER

Georgia Woman, Held for Murder, Visited by Daughter Who Was Present.

DOUGLAS, Ga., April 25.—Mrs. Maggie Haskins was under close medical observation today in the Coffee county jail, where she is held charged with killing her husband, the Rev. Allen Haskins, by shooting him in the back, Wednesday, with a charge of buckshot at their Leliaton home.

The story told by certain neighbors to the authorities is that Mrs. Haskins is a drug slave, and that her husband was trying to break her of the habit. This theory is as yet unsupported by evidence, however, and the coroner's jury, made up of the Haskins' own acquaintances, omitted any reference to it in its verdict on Haskins' death. The clergyman was slain, it was stated, by some person unknown.

Mrs. Haskins, who at first refused even to discuss the accusations against her, today denied them all. Her five-year-old daughter, who was in her father's arms when he was shot in the back, but did not see his slayer, was allowed to visit her mother.

Following the child's departure, fresh attempts were made to learn from Mrs. Haskins her whereabouts at the time of the tragedy, but without success. A woman of fifty, she obviously suffers severely from the mental strain of her position, but, for the circumstances, has behaved admirably with remarkable self-control.

Haskins had retired from the pulpit, and was a prosperous farmer at Leliaton.

## Thousands Injured In Italian Quake

Several Seconds' of Rumbling Cause Panic and Much Property Is Damaged.

AVEZZANO, Italy, April 25.—Hardly recovered from the terrible effects of the great earthquake in this section of the country in January, when more than 35,000 persons lost their lives, thousands of others were injured and tremendous property damage wrought, the people in this section of the province were panic-stricken today by another earthquake. This earth shock was accompanied by severe rumblings, which lasted for many seconds.

The shock was felt in all parts of the province, although the center seemed to be at Tagliacozzo, a city about twenty miles southwest of Avezzano, which suffered severely from the last earthquake, when a large proportion of the population was killed.

## T. R. AND BARNES REST ON THEIR OARS

Calm That Precedes Storm Hangs Over Political Bivouacs of Both.

By BOND P. GEDDES.  
SYRACUSE, N. Y., April 25.—Calm that precedes the storm hangs over the political bivouacs of William Barnes, Jr. and Colonel Roosevelt. Rumbling in the distance was the thunder of the first week's libel trial. Murky clouds gathered in promise of the tempest with the reconvening of court tomorrow.

Barnes and Roosevelt are resting on their oars of political craft, which may founder or buoyantly outdrive the future hurricane of political disclosures.

Both sides took the day off to take toll of their scars, recuperate physically, summon re-enforcements, and plan the campaign of the week. At least a week and possibly another will be required to finish the case.

Colonel Roosevelt has spent much time closeted with his attorneys. He will resume the stand tomorrow for conclusion of cross-examination by Barnes' attorney, William Ivins.

The most tempestuous day of the trial is expected, as Ivins' plans are to reach the climax tomorrow with questions regarding the 1912 Chicago convention, where Barnes played a leading part in Roosevelt's loss of the Republican nomination for President.

Surprise in Store.  
Barnes' counsel admit that their most grueling examination of Roosevelt is yet to come. They impute a surprise in store for the doubtful leader.

Roosevelt and his lawyers are jubilant. While they would not make any formal statement, it was asserted that the colonel is "de-lighted" with the results thus far. He feels that disclosures have left him unscathed.

Barnes' friends, however, insist that the colonel himself has failed to submit evidence legally required to support his plea of "justification" because of alleged truth of the libel charges.

They pointed out that practically Roosevelt's entire testimony has been toward mitigating or reducing the \$50,000 damages claimed by Barnes, and not in proof of the libel.

That the Barnes money claim has been "mildly" almost to the point of complete disappearance is the claim of the Roosevelt faction.

Among attorneys and others following the case regarding the probable size of any verdict against Roosevelt is rife. Few believed it would be a substantial damage award.

Nominal Verdict.  
That nominal damages—six cents, according to local practice—or a "hung" jury, will be the outcome is the belief of some.

Barnes' evidence, of which none has yet been received, except formal proof (Continued on Tenth Page.)

## Last Week of Beauty Contest Is Under Way

Journey to Two Expositions in California Will Be Free to the Winner—"Beauty Special" Will Leave Chicago on June 5.

The beauty contest, inaugurated by The Times to determine the National Capital's most attractive young woman and to afford her opportunity to make a free trip to the two expositions now spread under the sunny skies of California, enters upon its last week today.

All photographs must be in the hands of the Beauty Editor of The Times by noon Monday, May 3, if they are to receive consideration from the judges, who will be announced during the week. Promptly at noon on that day the entries will be closed, and if some beautiful Washington girl has been overlooked it is the fault of her friends and admirers rather than the Beauty Editor.

Ample warning of the close of the contest is given, the field is an open one, and the more entrants there are the more signal will be the honor of selection as winner.

The Times expects to publish soon, probably tomorrow, a fourth page of the beauty contestants. The three preceding pages of photographs published

## HUGHES LOOMS UP AS FAVORITE IN NEW YORK

Empire State G. O. P. Expected to Go Into 1916 Convention With Candidate.

WHITMAN OUT OF RACE NOW

Some Republicans Think Root Is Best Man—Libel Suit Causing Disturbance in Party.

By P. T. RELIHAN.  
ALBANY, April 25.—Will New York go into the Republican national convention of 1916 with a candidate of its own for President? Ask the question of any Republican in this State and the reply is pretty sure to be an affirmative.

The further removed the Republican interrogated is from the seat of party power the less hesitation is he likely to show in giving his answer.

"Yes, certainly, why not?" He will tell you that with ninety and odd delegates cut from the representation of the South, New York State's delegation in the next Republican national convention will hold a position relatively more important than in former years.

The natural deduction is the State's chances of landing a New York man for President will be enhanced.

### Possible Candidates.

Yes, and the man?

"Justice Hughes, perhaps."

"What's the matter with Elihu Root?"

Three months back a third name, that of Charles S. Whitman, with the laurels of a big gubernatorial victory yet unwithered, usually was injected, though almost always with a certain degree of diffidence.

"Then there's Whitman," Republicans would say, "he may come on."

Most Republicans have ceased to think Governor Whitman's name, even in a qualified way, with the Presidential nomination. On the other hand there is a marked, and as some persons think, a significant, tendency to discuss Elihu Root in that connection.

A few weeks past publicly disclaimed any thought of the Presidential nomination. When on the occasion of a visit he paid to the capital in this city newspaper correspondents told him he was being canvassed as the probable choice of New York Republicans for President, Root thrust the suggestion aside as mere idle gossip.

"That is all nonsense, such a thing is absolutely impossible," he said.

### What Root's Admirers Say.

There are Republicans in the State who think the former United States Senator was unduly emphatic in that remark. Such Republicans are apt to challenge any suggestion that either his age or his previous condition of servitude to corporate interests bars Root from the nomination.

It must be admitted that Root as he stood not many days since presiding over the constitutional convention which is to revise New York State's organic law looked young enough and vigorous enough to go through even an arduous Presidential campaign. As for former corporate connections, Root's admirers declare his services as Secretary of War and United States Senator from New York constitute a sufficient answer to any objections that might be advanced on that score.

Let conditions in 1916 be but half-way right, say certain Republicans, and Elihu Root would be the ideal candidate for President. This view is strongest, and it is only fair to permit the public to know that it is not the progressive wing of New York Republicanism, but among the conservatives, among Republicans who follow the political leadership of William Barnes, and whose proud boast it is that they never wavered from the path of regularity in party affairs to run after Progressive (Continued on Eighth Page.)

## BRITISH NORTH SEA CHIEF, CHALLENGED BY GERMANY



ADMIRAL SIR JOHN JELlicoe.

## JOY RIDERS WRECK TWO STOLEN CARS

Two Caps and Blood Near One Form Only Clue Found by Police Here.

Two caps found beside an overturned automobile at Twenty-eighth and R streets northwest have furnished the police of the Seventh precinct with a clue to the party of joy riders that took the machine from Fifteenth and I streets northwest last night and wrecked the car. Splashes of blood indicated that at least one of the men was hurt and the hospitals are being watched.

The machine belonged to Dr. H. C. Duffy, of 25 O street northwest. Persons who saw the machine overturn occurred at 12:30 o'clock this morning, and the car was badly damaged.

The machine, the property of G. A. Tanner, who lives in the Ethelhurst apartments, at Fifteenth and I streets northwest, was taken from its owner's garage at 11:30 o'clock this morning, three hours after it had been taken from in front of the new Masonic Temple.

## SLEW STEPCHILD TO TRY TO SAVE MONEY

Woman Looked Upon Victim as Obstacle to Attempts at Economy.

MUSKOGON, Mich., April 25.—That Mrs. Albert Steel, confessed slayer of her thirteen-year-old stepdaughter, looked upon her victim as an obstacle in the way of her earning money to aid her husband in meeting an indebtedness of several hundred dollars, has developed in the investigation of the case.

Worry over the financial matters, the police believe, undoubtedly was a contributory cause that led Mrs. Steel to force acid down the child's throat and then hold her in her arms until death ended her struggles.

The girl's body, nude, was discovered Thursday in an alley at the rear of the Steel home, partially hidden under a pile of loose dirt. The stepmother, accused of the murder, is said to have confessed that she killed the child because she was jealous of her husband's love for the girl.

One of Mrs. Steel's alleged confessions—that the girl died while a criminal operation was being performed upon her—has since been repudiated.

The fact that only a month ago the child's father, Albert Steel, took out a life insurance policy of \$200 on his daughter and that he kept this secret from his wife because of fear that Mrs. Steel might seek to harm the child was one of the points brought out in last night's investigation.

Mrs. Steel will be arraigned tomorrow in circuit court here. Since her arrest she has maintained an attitude of complete indifference to her fate. It was considered probable that the court might name a commission to investigate her sanity.

## GREATEST SEA FIGHT OF AGES DRAWS NEAR

Von Tirpitz's Fleet Already in North Sea and Britain Must Accept Defi.

BERLIN (via The Hague), April 25.—The greatest naval battle of all the ages, looked for since King George sent Admiral Sir John Jellicoe to sea on August 2, with instructions to "capture or destroy the German fleet," cannot long be avoided.

The great German fleet already has steamed far from its Helgoland base, where it had remained bottled up since the beginning of the war, and there is no possibility of staying off the clash for more than a few days.

And England will receive a surprise when the engagement comes, everyone here confidently predicts. The great British dreadnaughts, with their heavy guns, are to be met with craft equally powerful.

Officials declare the issue will be far from one-sided, as obtainable statistics would indicate.

Germany's belief that Britannia's supremacy of the seas now really is challenged, for the first time, is shown by the celebration throughout the empire yesterday of the golden anniversary of Grand Admiral von Tirpitz's entrance into the navy.

Just before the admiral left the admiralty offices he was presented the Iron Cross of the first order in behalf of the Kaiser. At the same time a telegram from the Kaiser was read, conferring an honorary title on the originator of the "submarine blockade," and proclaiming him "savior of the empire."

There is no doubt that, behind the de-vastating force of the celebration, is the general belief that the German nation is on the verge of great things on the sea.

It has been known, of course, since Admiral von Tirpitz's fleet left its haven to cruise the North Sea, that the great array of battle craft has been greatly augmented, but in what way no one is in a position to say.

The real situation will not be known until Admiral Jellicoe accepts the game of battle. And that day will be "Der Tag," all Germany is sure.

## BODY OF RICKER IS FOUND IN POTOMAC

Victim of Overturned Boat Seen Floating by Group of Fishermen on Upper Potomac.

The body of Lawrence Ricker, twenty-nine years old, who was drowned last Sunday near Chain Bridge, was found by a fishing party shortly before noon today a few yards from where the man sank when his boat overturned.

Ricker, who lived at 708 Seventh street northeast, was in a boat with George G. Cooper when their craft upset and both were thrown into the water.

Cooper managed to swim to the shore, but his companion sank immediately, and subsequent efforts to recover the body were futile.

The body was seen floating in the water by a group of men who went up the river to fish today. They towed it to shore and notified the police of the harbor precinct. The body was taken to the District morgue and the coroner notified.

## ALLIES BATTLE ON DEFENSIVE FROM YPRES TO THE SEA

German First Line Troops Withdrawn From Poland Hurlled Into Fighting For Possession of French Coast—Thousands Are Sacrificed.

## 25 TRAINS CARRY AWAY WOUNDED

French and Belgians Check Enemy on West Side of Yser Canal—Joffre's Troops Evacuate Trenches Near Apremont. Assaults in Champagne Fail.

AMSTERDAM, Holland, April 25.—Wasting men with utmost prodigality, Germany still carries the war to the allies. Every word that comes from the battle front in Belgium indicates this.

First line troops, withdrawn from the eastern theater of war, are being rushed to the front to aid in the "seasoning" of Earl Kitchener's new army. All are veteran fighters, "blooded" by experiences under fire. It is a real battle, this new fight that has been inaugurated by the Kaiser to redeem the loss of Neuve Chapelle. The outcome will be in doubt for many days.

The fighting is being pushed without the slightest indication of a let-up. From Ypres clear to the North Sea the Germans are on the offensive. They have new heavy artillery and rapid firers. South of Ypres they are seemingly only trying to maintain their positions.

Most of the fighting is characterized by correspondents familiar with the situation as "sheer murder." Every inch of the ground has been surveyed and mapped off by the sappers and engineers of both sides. The men engaged advance, and once their position is signaled the artillery drop shell after shell on them. With the exact range in the possession of the troops every advance is a forlorn hope and every man ordered to participate is billeted to practically certain death.

In one single day twenty-five trains, each made up of more than fifteen cars, left Liege, the new German base, for the front. The troops were eager young fighters of the first line. As they steamed southwest the spirit was the typical fighting one. There was not the slightest doubt, the reports reaching here say, that every single soldier realized the German empire was staking its last hope for supremacy on the new drive toward the North Sea.

## LIEGE FILLED WITH WOUNDED GERMANS.

And the reverse, the terrible, side of war was reflected from the very cars that carried these troops south. They left last Thursday. Commencing on Friday afternoon, the trains have been coming back. But instead of joyous, expectant youth, they carried the broken bodies of the German soldiers.

Every hospital in Liege, and most of the great factory buildings which have been idle since the initial rush of the German army last August, are crammed with wounded Germans. The number runs far into the thousands, the censored dispatches indicating that the figures are almost unbelievably large, and it is stated that they comprise only a part of the entire list, many of the wounded being in too grave a condition to move to the rear.

How many are dead cannot even be guessed at. It is known that civilians behind the lines are forced to bury 25,000 Germans after the Neuve Chapelle struggle. Included in the list were some of Germany's highest officers. But the spirit of the troops is said to be still that could be desired, and the general staff officials in charge of the present operations are understood to believe implicitly that within a very short time Dunkirk will be held by the Germans.

## England's New Army Is Hurlled Into Battle

PARIS, April 25.—The British troops are making the most strenuous efforts to regain the ground ceded to the Germans north and northeast of Ypres and along the Ypres canal. In this they are being aided by the French and Belgians.

The fighting is of the most sanguinary character, and the losses on both sides are admittedly enormous.

General French has brought up a great portion of his new army, and they are having their baptism of fire against the pick of the German troops, as the new forces in the German line comprise the Bavarians, Saxons, and the Prussian Guard.

The war office, while admitting that the fighting along the British lines is most severe, says it has no knowledge of the outcome. The French and Belgian carbiniers have been successful in fighting on the west bank of the Yser canal. The government, admitting for the first time that the Germans had captured the village of Lizerne, declares that later it was recaptured. The official report declares the French and Belgian forces combined in this work,

and that in recapturing the village heavy loss was inflicted on the enemy.

Hindenburg's Troops in West.  
It is reported from The Hague and other Dutch points that among the troops now fighting along the Yser line are three army corps that were diverted from the eastern front. These troops are said to be first line soldiers of the main army, and it is believed they have been sent to attempt to smash down the British forces, most of whom are raw volunteers, with only six months of training behind them.

In the Champagne region, near Fort Beaulieu, the Germans made five unsuccessful efforts to mine the French trenches. The French took advantage of this to extend their lines into the holes made by the explosions. The fighting is continuing with increasing severity at this point.

French Give Up Trenches.  
The war office admits that the French troops have evacuated that portion of the German trenches near Apremont which were captured after a desperate fight on Thursday. Along the line in the Argonne and between the Meuse